

STEAM ELECTRIC POWER GENERATING EFFLUENT LIMITATION GUIDELINES

ISSUE/TOPIC: Stay of compliance dates for Steam Electric Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG).

TALKING POINTS:

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Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

BACKGROUND:

- On November 3, 2015, EPA issued a final rule amending the effluent limitations guidelines and standards on various waste streams at steam electric power plants.
- Under the 2015 final rule, new requirements for existing power plants would be phased in between 2018 and 2023.
- The final rule updates standards that have been in place since 1982, incorporating technology improvements in the steam electric power industry over the last three decades.
- Steam electric power plants currently account for more toxic pollutants discharged into streams, rivers and lakes than any other category of permitted industry in the U.S.
- EPA recently received two administrative petitions for reconsideration of the Steam Electric ELG rule, one from the Utility Water Act Group and one from the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy.
- After considering the issues raised in the administrative petitions, on August 11, 2017 the Administrator announced his decision to conduct a rulemaking to potentially revise the new, more stringent BAT effluent limitations and pretreatment standards for existing sources in the 2015 rule that apply to bottom ash transport water and flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewater.

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Deliberative Process / Ex. 5